

All La Societe functions, even those of a purely social nature, should be opened with prayer in recognition of the God who makes our Nation and the Forty and Eight possible. It is the duty of the Chaplains or their representatives to provide this prayer. They should see that all religious ceremonies of the meeting, initiations, funeral services, Post Everlastings, etc are complied with.



INVOCATIONS

Dear Lord, as we gather for this meeting, give us the use of our gift of peace and understanding that we may approach the matters we must handle with sincere and just hearts. May you watch over and guide our tongues that we may not hurt our friends with whom we work for the betterment of our communities and our country. Keep us always true to the principles on which La Societe was founded. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Almighty God, creator of all that has been, that is, and is still to come, be with us we pray, as we meet as comrades and friends of La Societe. Be with us as we meet our commitments as members of this great organization. Guide our hearts and our minds as we work together for you, our God and our country. Amen.

With hearts humble with the sense of our responsibility yet proud of the confidence placed in us by our comrades of La Societe, with hearts grateful for the rich heritage bequeathed to us by our fathers, yet determined in be ever vigilant to preserve it, we ask thy blessing, O God, in this conference that we may be fruitful in its accomplishments and permanent in the good it effects. Be with us, O God, in our deliberations. Inspire us with Thy wisdom, direct us in our thinking, and guide us as we work for thee, our country, or comrades. Amen.

O God our Heavenly Father, we pray that You will be with us at this time to guide our work in this meeting. Grant us the wisdom to seek your will in all that we undertake, and the courage to follow in the direction You would have us to go. In seeking to serve our God, and our country, may our efforts be of benefit to our fellow veterans and all the people of our community.

We pray for peace, and we pray for all who serve the public, that they may discharge their duties capably and with honor and dignity. We pray for our comrades and for all our fellow citizens, that we may enjoy an even-handed justice in all our dealings; that we may always know the blessings of Freedom purchased for us at so great a cost; that we may with loyalty serve this land in true spirit of democracy. Bless the United States of America, and grant that this nation may live in peace among the nations of the world.

We pray also, O God, for our comrades in hospitals or in the homes, who are suffering mental and physical illness or disability. Comfort them with a sense of Your continuing presence, cheer them with the knowledge of your love, and grant them the blessing of health and happiness. All this we ask in your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God whose blessings are numberless and whose power is infinite, we are grateful for the rich heritage that is ours in the Nation of free people. We give you thanks for your manifold gifts to us as we met, for God and Country, to carry on the business and work of the La Societe. May we be honest and open in all our dealings, as we seek to serve you, our comrades, and this community. May the programs we undertake and support inspire a love of this Nation, a desire that we continue a strong and resourceful people, and a deep respect for those who have paid the ultimate price for freedom we all enjoy.

We ask also that you keep watch over us all you will comfort our comrades who are suffering mental and physical disability. May they know again the blessings of health and happiness. Amen.



Be with us, O Lord, as we gather for this important Cheminot (Promenade). May your wisdom and counsel guide us as we seek, for God and Country, to develop and authorize programs to benefit the citizens and especially the veterans of this great land.

Teach us to think wisely and carefully before we speak, to act with courage and conviction for the good of all rather than simply for vested interests, and to deal charitably with one another that we may all continue to enjoy mutual respect.

So may we serve you in spirit and in truth that our accomplishments will be built upon the firm foundation of charity and justice. Thus may our work both in our public sessions and our committee's conferences bring credit to La Societe and be of benefit to those we seek to serve, to your great honor and glory. Amen.

Engage us, O Lord, among all the signs, visible and invisible, which discover thy presence among us, so that, illuminated by thy grace, we shall enter into each day's circumstance empty of our pretensions, unafraid of our fears, and alert to every new possibility. As you intend us to be open to all the seasons of the soul, empower us to give of our heart's love generously to all who need us. Help us to honor the goodness in others, and keep us faithful to every thought and act that works against the evil one; through Christ our Lord. Amen.1

O Eternal God, in whose law we find our guidance, in whose love we find our healing and our joy, in whose will we find our goal: do thou so rule over our spirits in this hour that we will go from our worship with the freedom of those whose trust is in thee and who need have no more anxiety for themselves. Teach us to take our delight in thee, to stay our pride in what we own and what we have done, and to count the doing of thy will to be our only glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom we see true humility and obedience. Amen.1

O God of light eternal, in whose love and power the world took shape, and we were born, and our lives are lived, and we die: grant us now that silence of the heart in which we can recall that we are never separated from the love which created us, nor from the love that surrounds our suffering. Bring us now into thy presence, and let us be strengthened there. Amen.1

Come, Sovereign Lord, and awaken in us those needs of flesh and soul, of loss and hope, of wound and healing which we must cry out before thee, for our own sakes and for the sake of all peoples. Be that leaping grace, that generosity of spirit by which we care anew for what happens to the human race. Make us sensible to the ache and anxiety in the world and open to the cries for help. Let our prayers shape what we will do to mend, overcome, and make new. And Christ be with us all. Amen.1

Come, Holy Spirit, into the prayers we cry out for the sake of all peoples, for their healing and for their salvation. Overcome our little faith and empower both our words and our silences with that love that loves without anxiety. Brood and sigh in us the grievances and sorrows, the ache and the loneliness of all those near and far away who need our intercessions. Take us out of ourselves and into their need. Give us the trust which knows that, beyond our asking is thyself -- gathering, comforting, and healing. Amen.1

Gentle Lord, find in us this day whatever desires to handle life with a joyous desire. Put our arms around the sad ones that they may be comforted. Let our eyes love the unloved ones that they may become again part of the human family. Give into our hands the healing touch whereby fevers cool, brokenness mends, fears vanish away. And in thy name help us to take our-selves and others through the dark passages of death in the sure hope of a high and holy resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.1

Deepen within us, O God, the sense of your presence and refresh us with your power. Give ease to our hearts by bringing us close to things infinite and eternal. Grant us dignity by taking us under your care. Humble us by revealing our shortcomings and exalt us by manifesting yourself as our Counselor and Lord. Help us always to impart strength and joy to those whom you have sent us to serve. Amen.**

Our Father, for the gift of life and for all the blessings you bestow, we are grateful. Grant that as we worship, we will experience your grace and be challenged by your presence. Strengthen us and lift us to new levels of spiritual understanding. May our joy be made full in the assurance of your love and eternal provision. Amen.**

Almighty God, we come together today to celebrate the life which you give us through Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Help us, in this worship hour that we may experience your abiding presence, be uplifted by your joy and empowered by your love. May we depart revived, seeking to share your glory. Amen.**

Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you for the peace of the night and the challenge of the new day. In our worship of you, fill us with your Spirit, touch our hearts with your love and renew our minds through your word. Remind us of your unfailing love and cause our lives to glorify your name. To the glory of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Our Father, we enter worship confessing your righteousness, your excellence and your sovereignty. We praise you for your mercy and grace. We trust in your love and faithfulness, and we accept with outstretched arms the gift of life you freely give through your Son, Jesus Christ. Bless us in worship. May your name be praised now and evermore. Amen.**

Gracious and holy God, we come to you because you have first come to us. We know you because you have revealed yourself. Give us this morning hour of worship a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us. Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and interpretation, and newly enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ever-present, ever-loving God, who seeks to mold us after your will so that we will bear the image of you, our Creator; may our worship today result in our being pliable people who, aware of our sin and shortcomings, rededicate ourselves to follow more closely the example for living found in Jesus, the Christ, in whose spirit we pray. Amen.13 (J. B.)

We have come to this place, O God, because it has been dedicated to your worship and because it is replete with reminders of you, the Holy One, who created us. We have come, not because we must but because we may; not out of fear but out of love; not to bask in our merits but to be buoyed by your acceptance, love, and mercy. Be within and among us, we pray, as we now worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Holy God, Creator of all, whose will and ways we have found incarnated in the life of Jesus; keep us ever mindful that we are to follow the Christ but worship you. For it was to you, O God, that Jesus gave his allegiance as he grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with you and others. May this service inspire us to do the same. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Faithful God, our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come; there are times in life when we need to be reminded that you never will forsake us and that you somehow will give us strength for the living of each day. May our worship this morning indelibly stamp these truths on our souls. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Nurturing God, Source of life, light, love, and truth; we approach you with expectancy and joy this day as we come to worship you. We know that as a parent loves a child, you love us. So may this hour motivate us to be childlike - loving, trusting, honest, and accepting - but not childish - self-centered, petulant, and immature. Amen.13 (J. B.)

God of the universe, Creator of all of earth's people: take away our myopia and remove our blinders as we worship you today. Improve our hearing so that we might hear the cries of your children who are less fortunate than we, and challenge us anew to respond to the words of your child Jesus, "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Amen.13 (J. B.)

Creator and Creating God, who called the worlds into being and created us in your image; we confess that we often mistreat the world you have given us and forget that the setting for our span of life is your world, not ours. May our worship today motivate us to be better residents and caretakers of your earth and rivers and seas and sky. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Creator God, who has put a song in our hearts and who desires that we live in harmony with one another: may our worship gladden our spirits and motivate us to strive for a closer walk with you as we enter the path of this new week. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Compassionate Creator, who has given us voices with which to praise you, minds with which to seek you, hearts with which to love you, and lives with which to serve you, we gather this day to

worship you in spirit and in truth. Renew us, refresh us, invigorate us, challenge us, inspire us, so that we may enter this new week assured of your love and comforted by the knowledge that your abiding presence within will enable us to face whatever comes our way in life. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Great, gracious, and gathering God, you have called us to be your people in this particular time and place. Thus, we have come to this house of worship desiring to see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly. May we do so not just week by week, but day by day! Amen.13 (J. B.)

From our separate neighborhoods and communities we have gathered this day, O God, to affirm that no matter who we are or where we live or what our status of life, we are your children. Thank you for loving us and caring for and about us. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Caring Friend, whom we cannot love unless we love one another, and whom we cannot serve unless we serve one another; may our worship this day impress upon us that just as the cross is incomplete until the horizontal intersects the vertical, our relationship to you is incomplete until our lives meaningfully intersect the lives of those with whom we live and work and play and pray. Amen.13 (J. B.)

O God, Fountain of life, from whom flows more blessings than we can enumerate; we pause at the beginning of this new week to put ourselves in touch with you, the source of our spirits. Flood our lives with a sense of your presence, and keep us caught up in the current of your buoying love. Amen.13 (J. B.)

O God, you have been our help in ages past. But you want us to live in the present, and you are our hope for the future. Thank you for this day and for all of our tomorrows. For today is the first day of the rest of our lives. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Eternal God, you have called us into your church to be your people in this time and place. We have accepted your call, but often we forget our mission. Forgive us, renew us, and motivate us to go forth and be the church - active, functioning, contributing, loving members of the body of Christ whose lives make a difference! Amen.13 (J. B.)

Come in, and refresh us, renew us, restore us. May our worship remind us that the gifts of your abiding presence, your continual love, and your sustaining strength enable us to face every day of our lives, no matter what they may bring. For this we praise and thank you. Amen.13 (J. B.)

O God, we have come to this sanctuary, not just to be observers or to be entertained, but to join others in worshipping you. So open our minds and spirits that we might be aware of your presence in our midst. In this hour may we reflect on your power and goodness, seek forgiveness for our failures and wrongdoing, discern how we should live, and renew our commitment to follow you. Then may we go forth to love and serve you by loving and serving one another. Amen.13 (J. B.)

For voices with which to praise you, for hands with which to serve you, for minds with which to know you, and for hearts with which to love you, we thank you, O God. May our worship this day inspire us to a higher plane of living so that we will become more fully the persons you want us to be. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Good, great, and gracious God, who rejoices with us in our times of joy and is our refuge and strength in times of trouble, we have come to worship you in spirit and in truth and to reflect on your purposes for our lives. May the hymns we sing and the music and words we hear inspire and challenge us more closely to approximate the life of Jesus, in whose spirit we pray. Amen.13 (J. B.)

We gather, O God, to worship and praise you for all that you have given us. You love us just because we are, not because of who we are. You have blessed us because you are gracious, not because we have earned your grace. May this hour spent with you and one another motivate us to be more fully the people you intend and want us to be. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Caring Creator, ever within as well as around us, our constant companion as we traverse the hills and valleys of life; we gather in this place seeking to reestablish conscious contact with you, the ground of our being. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us - for your sake, for Christ's sake, and for the sake of others. For it is in loving that we are loved, in giving that we receive, and in serving that we are served. Amen.13 (J. B.)

God of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and Jesus, and our God, too; we join the procession of those who down through the ages have sought to serve and love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength. We thank you this day for your ancient but timeless laws that offer guidelines for our daily living. Forgive us for the times we have disregarded them, and may we do a better job of following you day by day. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Caring creator and persuasive presence, whose love surrounds us, whose strength supports us, whose truth enlightens us, and whose spirit guides us; you have given us a pattern for daily living in Jesus, the Christ. For his life and teachings, for showing us the way, and for the

revelation that you are always with us, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Forgive us for the times we have turned our backs on the example of Jesus, and make us more like the one in whose spirit we pray. Amen.13 (J. B.)

We have come to your house, O God, to worship and sing your praise. For you are the loving source of our lives who calls us to love you by serving others. And your indwelling spirit strengthens and enables us to face this new day and week in the hope and assurance that you will enable us to face and contend with whatever comes our way. For being our creator and sustainer, thank you! Amen.13 (J. B.)

Ever-present God, who always is within and around us and who gives us courage for the living of each day; we gather to praise you for guiding and upholding our lives. Make us more keenly aware of your still, small voice that calls us to be the best we can be and reminds us that we never walk alone! Amen.13 (J. B.)

Loving and merciful God, who has called us to be your servants in the service of others and who has given us talents enabling us to serve; forgive us for those times when we have buried our gifts and thus failed to be there for others and to do what we could have done to make ours a better world in which to live. May our worship today inspire us to say, "Here am I, God," and then to go forth to live in the manner of the Christ, whose name we profess. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Sovereign God, vaster than our minds can fathom yet as intimate as love itself, we gather to profess that you are our God and we are your people. Forgive us for at times forgetting whose we are and thereby denying the relevance of your will and ways. Claiming your forgiving grace, we rededicate ourselves to following more faithfully and fully the life and teachings of Jesus, the Christ, in whom we see you most clearly and completely revealed. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Eternal God, who loves each of us as a parent loves a child, we pause to remember your amazing grace and your perennial and protective presence. You indeed are our refuge and strength and present with us both in good and in difficult times. Because you love us and always are with us, in gratitude we rededicate ourselves to following Jesus' commandment to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Loving, living God, we have come to this place dedicated to your worship because we seek to have our lives refreshed and renewed. Sometimes we need to be reminded that we are to do what is right, that we are to speak the truth from our hearts in love, that the words we say are not to hurt or slander, and that we are to do no evil to others. Forgive us for the times when we have failed to live in this manner in the past week, and enable us to do a better job of living and loving in this new week that lies ahead. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Ever-present source of life and strength, we pause now to become aware of your spirit that always is around and within us, just waiting to be recognized and affirmed. Forgive us for not accepting your power when we are powerless and your assistance when we fall or fail. May this hour with you and your people refresh and renew us so we better can live each day that is ours. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Holy, gracious, and everlasting God, we gather to sing and speak your praise. You love us as a parent loves a child. When we are weak you offer us your strength. When we are brokenhearted you offer us your comfort and healing. When we stumble or fall you offer to help us. When we sin you offer us your forgiveness. For being our help in the past and our hope for the future, we offer you our thanks. Amen.13 (J. B.)

You have called us, O God, to worship you in spirit and in truth, and we have gathered for this purpose. Open our eyes to the beauty of the world you have created; open our ears to your still, small voice that seeks to influence us; open our hearts to your amazing grace and forgiving love. Being thus reminded of your greatness, your guidance, and your goodness, may we seek to live as did Jesus, the Christ, in whose spirit we pray. Amen.13 (J. B.)

O God, who comes to us as creator, refuge, and fortress, we remember you this day as shepherd - one who cares about who we are, where we are, and how we are doing. You are our shepherd who knows our joys and our sorrows, our gifts, and our needs. Lead and guide us this day and throughout this new week. As sheep follow their shepherd, may we follow you, as did Jesus, the Christ, who also was like a shepherd and called people to follow him. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Creator and loving God, who desires to turn our weeping into joy and our mourning into dancing, who stays with us during the dark nights of our souls until we experience the light of life once again; we give you thanks for your constant love and powerful presence. May our worship today remind us of our call to follow you by showing love to you and others, as did Jesus, the Christ, in whose spirit we pray. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Creator God, Fountain of Life, whose constant presence, amazing grace, and law of love nurture and sustain us each day; we have come to recommit ourselves to you. For in and through you is life that is both abundant and eternal. You have called us to be your people; so we respond by asking you to melt us, mold us, fill us, use us, so that our lives will more closely approximate the life of Jesus, the Christ, whose we are and whom we seek to serve. Amen.13 (J. B.)

Eternal, ever-present God, we pause in your presence to thank you for being within and around us throughout life. When we are weak, you are to us like a rock. When we are buffeted or endangered by life's events, you are our fortress. For hearing us, for delivering and saving us, we are forever grateful and therefore have come to praise and honor you, as did Jesus, in whose spirit we pray. Amen.13 (J. B.)